

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 07587 201625Z

53

ACTION ORM-01

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SR-02 VO-03 SCA-01 EUR-12 DPW-01

AID-05 IGA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ARA-06 OMB-01 ABF-01 TRSE-00 OIC-02 EB-07

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FOR S/R:ORM

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, ICEM

SUBJECT: ICEM LATIN AMERICAN PROGRAM

REFS: (A) GENEVA 6801; (B) GENEVA 7539

1. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, ICEM COUNCIL A ITS RECNT 38TH SESSION ESTABLISHED WORKING GROUP COMPRISED 14 GOVERNMENTS TO REVIEW FINANCIAL, POLICY AND OPERATIONAL ASPECS OF ICEM'S LATIN AMERICAN PROGRAM AND RELATED MATTERS. WORKING GROUP SLAED MET FOR THIS PURPOSE IN MARCH 197.

2. DESPITE FACT USG HAS BEEN PROVIDING IN EXCESS 50 PERCENT OF GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS TO LATIN AMERICAN PROGRAM (SECTION III OF ICEM BUDGET), THIS PROGRAM HAS BEEN PLAGUED OVR YEARS FROM LACK OF FINANCING. SEVERAL MEMBER GOVERNMENTS INCLUDING SOME IN LATIN AMERICA WHICH HAVE BENEFITTED DIRECTLY FROM PROGRAM HAVE CONTRIBUTED ONLY LITTLE OR NOTHING O IT.

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 07587 201625Z

3. ICEM COUNCIL, IN ITS WISDOM, DECIDED IT HIGH TIME ASSESS LATIN AMERICAN PROGRAM REALISTICALLY AND PLAN APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO RE-DRESS IT IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERESTS OF MEMBER GOVERNMENTS AND AVAILABLE RESOURCES.

4. WITH VIEW TO MARCH MEETING OF WORKING GROUP, PURPOSE OF THIS MESSAGE IS TO OFFER SOME VIEWS, COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DEPARTMENT'S CONSIDERATION IN CONNECTION DEVELOPMENT USG POSITION. MISSION BELIEVES UP-COMING WORKING GROUP MEETING OFFERS GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR USG TO GET OUT FROM UNDER DISPROPORTIONATELY HEAVY FINANCIAL COMMITMENT TO LATIN AMERICAN PROGRAM, OR AT LEAST TO ENCOURAGE SOUNDER AND MORE REALISTIC MODUS OPERANDI FOR THIS PART OF ICEM'S ACTIVITY.

5. BASICALLY, BELIEVE USG SHOULD SUPPORT PREMISE THAT ICEM IS INTERGOVERNMENTAL INSTRUMENT WHOSE ESSENTIAL PURPOSE IS TO SERVE INTERESTS OF MEMBER GOVERNMENTS. ACCORDINGLY, INsofar LATIN AMERICAN PROGRAM CONCERNED, CONSIDER ICEM RESPONSIBILITY SHOULD BE LIMITED TO IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS REQUESTED BY MEMBER GOVERNMENTS WHICH APPROVED BY ICEM COUNCIL AND FOR WHICH NECESSARY RESOURCES AVAILABLE. HERETOFORE ICEM ADMINISTRATION HAS FORMULATED ANNUAL LATIN AMERICAN PROGRAM AND HENCE SOUGHT FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO CARRY IT OUT.

6. IN FUTURE LATIN AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS REQUESTING SPECIFIC PROJECTS SHOULD NORMALLY BE EXPECTED PROVIDE MEASURE OF FINANCING COMMENSURATE WITH THEIR ABILITY TO PAY. GNP AND UN ASSESSMENT SCALE MAY BE USED INTERNALLY AS GUIDES TO DETERMINE LEVEL OF FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LA GOVERNMENTS. EUROPEAN SENDING GOVERNMENTS AND MIGRANTS THEMSELVES AND/OR THEIR SPONSORS SHOULD REPRESENT OTHER PRINCIPAL SOURCES OF FINANCING. OTHER INTERNATIONAL ENTITIES SUCH AS OAS, ECLA, UNDP, ILO AND VOLAGS MIGHT ALSO BE EXPLORED AS POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FINANCING. LASTLY, OTHER ICEM MEMBER GOVERNMENTS INCLUDING USG COULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 GENEVA 07587 201625Z

BE ENCOURAGED TO SUPPORT GIVEN PROJECTS ON PURELY VOLUNTARY BASIS ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR INTERESTS. POSSIBLY ARA DESKS AND/OR USAID WOULD VIEW THIS AS OPPORTUNITY TO ADVANCE US INTERESTS IN CERTAIN SITUATIONS.

7. BELIEVE THIS INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY PROJECT APPROACH AS OPPOSED PRESENT CONTINENT-WIDE LA PROGRAM WOULD

ENABLE INTERESTED PARTIES TO IDENTIFY MORE CLOSELY WITH SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES IN GIVEN COUNTRIES AND THUS POSSIBLY GENERATE GREATER SUPPORT. FOR EXAMPLES, NORWAY MIGHT CONCEIVABLY BE RESPONSIVE TO PERU'S REQUESTS FOR SKILLED WORKERS FOR THEIR FISHING AND PAPER-PULP INDUSTRIES; NETHERLANDS TO BRAZIL'S NEED FOR TECHNICIANS FOR RADIO/TELEVISION INDUSTRY; FRG TO ARGENTINA'S CALL FOR SKILLED AUTOMOTIVE WORKERS; ETC. THIS CONNECTION, CERTAIN GOVERNMENTS MAY WISH TO ADVANCE PURPOSES OF LA PROGRAM BY MAKING SERVICES OF ASSOCIATE EXPERTS AVAILABLE (REFTEL A REFERS).

8. ANY EVENT, BELIEVE NEW APPROACH TO LA PROGRAM SHOULD HAVE OBJECTIVE OF GETTING ICEM OUT OF RECRUITMENT AND PLACEMENT ACTIVITIES WHICH REQUIRE LARGE STAFF AND HIGH OVERHEAD EXPENSES. BELIEVE RECRUITMENT AND PLACEMENT FUNCTIONS SHOULD BE LEFT TO SENDING AND RECEIVING GOVERNMENTS AND/OR OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES. MISSION TENDS SHARE FRG VIEW (REFTEL B) THAT MORE AND MORE ICEM'S ROLE SHOULD BE ESSENTIALLY THAT OF PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED SERVICES.

9. RESPECT ICEM BUDGET, RECOMMEND USG SUPPORT MERGER OF SECTION K (NATIONAL MIGRATION) AND SECTION III (LATIN AMERICAN PROGRAM) EFFECTIVE CY 1976. NEW COMBINED SECTION MIGHT BE TITLED "SELECTIVE MIGRATION" WITHOUT REFERENCE TO ANY PARTICULAR GEOGRAPHIC AREA. ALL OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES UNDER THIS SECTION WOULD BE BASED ON SPECIFIC PROJECT REQUESTS FROM GOVERNMENTS WHETHER AUSTRALIA, ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, ETC., AND IMPLEMENTED IN ACCORDANCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 GENEVA 07587 201625Z

AVAILABLE RESOURCES. BELIEVE SECTION II (REFUGEE MIGRATION) SHOULD REMAIN AS IS.

10. WORKING GROUP MIGHT ALSO REVIEW ICEM STAFF STRUCTURE AND POSSIBLY RECOMMEND TRANSFERRING CERTAIN POSITIONS (LIMITED NUMBER) RELATED LA PROGRAM FROM OPERATIONAL TO ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET. SINCE CONTRIBUTIONS TO ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET ARE MANDATORY, THIS MOVE WOULD CAUSE ALL MEMBER GOVERNMENTS TO SUPPORT LA PROGRAM AT LEAST IN LIMITED MEASURE. ABRAMS

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